

Message Text

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SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 JUSE-00 FEA-01
ACDA-10 IO-14 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 ERDA-07 DHA-02
OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 EPG-02 AF-10 NEA-10 /152 W
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O R 211750 JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1651
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONUSL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 BELGRADE 4939

FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI;
USIA FOR J. THURBER IOP/G; AND WHITE HOUSE FOR POWELL AND SCHECTER

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP, YO
SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER
JULY 21

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN BELGRADE AT 1430 GMT ON JULY 21. QUOTE:
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY: THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. IT IS A PLEASURE
TO SEE YOU ON THIS NICE AFTERNOON IN BELGRADE. THE TEMPERATURE
AND THE HUMIDITY ARE A LOT BETTER THAN IN WASHINGTON D.C. I DO
NOT HAVE ANY FORMAL STATEMENTS. I AM GLAD TO RESPOND TO ALL THE
QUESTIONS THAT I CAN ANSWER.
QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE WAY THE CSCE
NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING FROM THE TALKS YOU HAD WITH AMBASSADOR
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SHERER AND THE OTHER DELEGATIONS? HAVE YOU MET MR. VORONTSOV
(USSR DELEGAT), BY THE WAY?
A. TAKING THOSE QUESTIONS IN ORDER, I HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED
BY THE DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR SHERER AND AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER.
I ATTENDED THE SESSION BRIEFLY THIS MORNING. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
THE GROUP IS MAKING VERY GOOD PROGRESS TOWARD WORKING OUT AN AGENDA
AND A SET OF PROCEDURES. AS I ESTIMATE IT, THEY HAVE AGREED ON

A VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE GROUND RULES, AGENDA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SESSION THIS FALL. IT SEEMS TO ME THEY ARE GOING ABOUT IT IN A WORKMANLIKE AND BUSINESSLIKE WAY. I AM NOT AT ALL SURPRISED THAT THE ENDEAVOR HAS TAKEN A GOOD PERIOD OF TIME BECAUSE EVERY WORD AND EVERY SENTENCE IS IMPORTANT. I LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR COMING TO AGREEMENT IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT I HAVE MET MR. VORONTSOV, I DID MEET HIM ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER HEADS OF DELEGATION, OR VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM, AT THE LUNCHEON TODAY THAT WAS VERY KINDLY GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER AND AMBASSADOR SHERER. I ENJOYED MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

Q. HOW DO YOU THINK THAT THIS PROBLEM ABOUT A CUT OFF OR OPEN ENDED CONFERENCE WILL BE SOLVED?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGENDA AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROCEDURES. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES' DELEGATIONS, MANY OF WHOM ARE LONG EXPERIENCED IN THIS, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND GOOD SOLUTIONS TO THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL FIND A GOOD SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE LONG RUN. THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES ARE TO HAVE A CONFERENCE THIS FALL WHICH ENABLES THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE TO HAVE A FULL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION, TO HAVE A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT BE ADVANCE, AND TO PROVIDE THE MODALITIES FOR THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE AGAIN OF THIS CHARACTER IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS A CONTINUING PROCESS AND FROM OUR STANDPOINT IT IS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT THAT WE PROVIDE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WILL ENABLE THE PROCESS TO CONTINUE.

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Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "VERY NEAR FUTURE"?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO SET ANY DEADLINES FOR A DISCUSSION WHICH I AM ONLY PERIPHERALLY INVOLVED IN BUT I WOULD HOPE THAT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH THE DELEGATES WILL HAVE FOUND AN ACCEPTABLE SET OF PROCEDURES AS WELL AS AN AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE THIS FALL. BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY DO FIND A BASIS ON WHICH TO GO FORWARD SO THAT THE PROCESS CAN CONTINUE.

Q. TO REACH THE GOALS YOU MENTIONED, DOES IT NEED AN OPEN-ENDED CONFERENCE?

A. I THINK THAT SINCE THE CONFERENCE ITSELF IS EXPERIMENTAL IN CHARACTER, THIS BEING THE FIRST REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION, IT IS VERY HARD TO SET AN EXACT TERMINATION PERIOD BECAUSE WHEN THAT DATE COMES THE CONFERENCE MAY NOT HAVE FINISHED ITS WORK. SO WITHOUT PRE-

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O R 211750 JUL 77
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USIA FOR J. THURBER IOP/G; AND WHITE HOUSE FOR POWELL AND SCHECTER

JUDGING WHAT THE DELEGATES HERE MIGHT WORK OUT AS A SATISFACTORY
MODUS, I WOULD SAY THAT OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE
THE KIND OF AGENDA AND THE KIND OF PROCEDURES THAT ENABLE US TO
ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION. A FAIR CON-
SIDERATION OF NEW SUGGESTIONS, AND ALSO, OF AS GREAT IMPORTANCE,
PROVIDE AN ONGOING PROCESS IN FUTURE MEETINGS.

Q. DID YOU GET ANYTHING AT ALL FROM MR. VORONTSOV, THAT HE IS PRE-
PARED TO MAKE A CONCESSION ON THE POINT OF THE CUT-OFF DATE, OR ON
THE CONTRARY THAT HE IS DEFINITELY GOING TO STAND FIRM ON IT?

A. I DID NOT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I HAVE MET MR. VORONTSOV.
WE HAD A DISCUSSION WHICH WAS ONE IN WHICH WE WERE GETTING ACQUAINTED
WITH EACH OTHER AND DISCUSSING OUR GENERAL VIEWS TOWARD THE CON-
FERENCE IN GENERAL. WE DID NOT FOCUS ON THE SPECIFIC ITEMS UNDER
DISCUSSION.

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Q. IN DISCUSSION WITH THE YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS,
DID THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM COME UP--THE ATTACK ON THE YUGOSLAV
UNITED NATIONS MISSION AND (INAUDIBLE)?

A. YES, I DISCUSSED THAT WITH MR. MINIC (YUGOSLAV FOREIGN
MINISTER) YESTERDAY. I TOLD HIM THAT OUR COUNTRY DEEPLY DEPLORES
THE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AGAINST YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN THE U.S.
I ASSURED HIM THAT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARE TAKING EVERY

ACTION TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF THAT TERRORISM. I ASSURED HIM THAT OUR JUDICIAL PROCESS IS MOVING RAPIDLY WITH RESPECT TO THE EXISTING CASES. I WENT ON TO TELL HIM THAT REGRETTABLY THIS IS A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON. IT IS A PHENOMENON IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAGIC EVENTS--OUR AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS WAS KILLED BY TERRORISTS. SO THAT IS A PROBLEM OF WHICH WE ARE ACUTELY AWARE, AND ONE ON WHICH WE WANT TO DO ALL WE CAN WITH THE MOST DETERMINED EFFORT TO PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF THE TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q. HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THIS ATOMIC ENERGY PLANT AT KRSKO?

A. YES, WE HAD A DISCUSSION OF THAT, AND I URGED THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT, AS I HAVE ENCOURAGED OUR GOVERNMENT, TO UNDERTAKE EARLY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO ENSURE THAT A FUEL SUPPLY FOR YOUR NUCLEAR PLANT WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN IT IS READY FOR OPERATION, I BELIEVE IN A YEAR, OR IN A YEAR AND A HALF, OR TWO YEARS. I ALSO WAS GLAD TO HEAR FROM THE YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION WHICH WAS PROPOSED AT THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN LONDON AND WHICH WE HOPE ALL THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE A MAJOR INTEREST IN NUCLEAR POWER WILL PARTICIPATE. THE AIM OF THIS EVALUATION IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHICH ARE SHORT OF POWER WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE ADVANTAGES OF NUCLEAR POWER, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO AVOID THE RISKS OF THE PROLIFERATION OF THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE. OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PRESIDENT ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES AND THE PROLIFERATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY WHICH ENABLES

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COUNTRIES TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. SO WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AN INTERNATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE ENTIRE FUEL CYCLE SO AS TO FIND WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THE DUAL OBJECTIVES OF ENABLING THOSE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD LIKE THE UNITED STATES WHICH NEED POWER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NUCLEAR POWER, AND AT THE SAME TIME LIMITING THE HORRIBLE RISKS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES.

Q. IN YOUR TALKS WITH YUGOSLAVS, DID THEY EXPRESS ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER?

A. NO, I DISCUSSED THOSE SUBJECTS IN A TANGENTIAL WAY WITH THE YUGOSLAVS IN THE SENSE THAT WE DISCUSSED THE CONFERENCE HERE IN BELGRADE WHICH WE EXPECT TO START THIS FALL. I COMPLIMENTED THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT ON ITS FACILITIES HERE AND ON ITS WILLINGNESS TO HOST THE CONFERENCE AND ON THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN TOWARD THE CONVENING OF THIS CONFERENCE THIS FALL. I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE CONTEXT IN WHICH WE DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DISCUSSED THE EXCHANGE OF TOP LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND THE SECOND THING, (QUESTION ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS -- INAUDIBLE)

A. I INDICATED THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE VISIT OF MR. KARDELJ AND THAT WE WERE EXPECTING THAT TO TAKE PLACE THIS FALL. I ALSO

INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HOPES AT SOME TIME, WHEN IT
WOULD BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT, TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT TITO. IT
SEEMS TO ME, AND IT SEEMS TO OUR GOVERNMENT, THAT THE EXCHANGE
OF THESE VISITS AND THE CONVERSATIONS THAT TAKE PLACE WOULD BE

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O R 211750Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA;

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CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESIRABLE FROM BOTH OF OUR STANDPOINTS. NO
SPECIFIC DATES WERE AGREED ON, BUT WE DID HAVE AN AGREEMENT THAT
SUCH VISITS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. AND YOU ASKED A SECOND QUESTION?

Q. THAT IS THE ECONOMIC FIELD....

Q. EXCUSE ME, BUT WAS THERE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT PRESI-
DENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT TITO WOULD MEET?

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A. I CANNOT SAY THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WE DID AGREE THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD BE DESIRABLE SUBJECT TO FINDING A DATE ON THE SCHEDULE OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE HEAVY, WOULD MAKE SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS FEASIBLE.

Q. WILL TITO BE TRAVELLING TO THE STATES OR IS MR. CARTER COMING TO EUROPE?

A. WE DID NOT FOCUS ON IT IN THAT PRECISION. WE DID NOT TALK ABOUT WHERE SUCH MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE. I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR THE COURAGE AND THE LEADERSHIP PRESIDENT TITO HAS SHOWN. I KNOW THAT HE WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ABLE TO TALK WITH HIM IN PERSON. ON THE ECONOMIC QUESTION THAT YOU ASKED, WE DISCUSSED THAT, AND IT WAS ONE OF FOUR OR FIVE AREAS IN WHICH I INDICATED THAT I HOPED THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD HAVE CLOSER COOPERATION. WE DO HAVE VERY ACTIVE TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT AS AN ASPECT OF OUR OVERALL IMPROVING RELATIONS, I HOPE THE TRADE RELATIONS WILL INCREASE.

Q. MAY I ASK ABOUT U.S. GOVERNMENT REACTION TO PRESIDENT GISCARD'S REMARKS ABOUT THE U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN PARTICULAR HIS REMARK THAT IT IS VIOLATING THE CONDUCT OF DETENTE, DAMAGING IT?

A. WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY BOTH IN THE PRINCIPLE AND SPIRIT OF DETENTE AND WE INTEND TO PURSUE IT. AS I TOLD MR. VORONTSOV, I HOPE THAT I WILL CONDUCT MYSELF, AND THE OTHERS WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES, SO THAT THIS CONFERENCE HERE IN BELGRADE WILL BE AN EXAMPLE OF THE ABILITY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES TO WORK TOGETHER IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM. BEYOND THAT I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO COMMENT ON SOMEONE ELSE'S COMMENT ON THE UNITED STATES.

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Q. DID YOU FIND ANY COMMENT ON THE AFRICA POLICY OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE UNITED STATES?

A. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE PROBLEMS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA AND IN A RELATIVELY BRIEF AND I WOULD SAY NOT DEEPLY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THAT SUBJECT, WE AGREED THAT IT HAD BECOME ONE OF THE DANGER AREAS OF THE WORLD IN WHICH THERE WAS THE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT THAT MIGHT HAVE THE RISK OF ENDANGERING PEACE AND THAT WE SHOULD WATCH IT WITH CARE AND TRY TO TAKE ACTIONS

WHICH APKLD MINIMIZE THE RISK OF CONFLICT THERE OR MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ITS SPREADING, SHOULD IT TAKE PLACE.

Q. DID YOU DISCUSS THE ACTIVITY OF THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES?

A. I SEE YOU ARE VERY WELL INFORMED ON MY CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY. I INDICATED TO MY INTERLOCUTERS YESTERDAY THAT WE HAD A SENSE OF ADMIRATION FOR THE LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS SHOWN IN THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND I INDICATED THAT WE WELCOMED THE INDICATIONS THAT INDIA, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE NEXT STOP ON THE TRIP THAT I AM MAKING, HAS UNDERSCORED ITS DETERMINATION TO BE PART OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT OR THE NON-ALIGNED BLOC.

Q. TO RETURN TO THE BELGRADE MEETING, COULD YOU IMAGINE A FORMAL AGREEMENT THAT THE FALL CONFERENCE WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A, AS THE EAST CALLS IT, "A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT"?

A. YES, I CAN IMAGINE THAT IT CAN BE CONDUCTED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, I WOULD USE TWO WORDS BOTH OF WHICH BEGIN WITH "C". IN THAT SAME SETTING, I THINK A CONVERSATION CAN BE BOTH CANDID AND CONSTRUCTIVE, AND THOSE ARE THE POINTS THAT I MADE AMONG OTHERS IN TALKING WITH MR. VORONTSOV TODAY. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CONVERSATION, AS AMONG PEOPLE, CAN BE AT THE SAME TIME CANDID AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

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FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI;
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Q: WHAT WAS MR. VORONTSOV'S REACTION?

A: I THINK IT IS BETTER FOR ME NOT TO CHARACTERIZE
SOMEONE ELSE'S REACTION. I WOULD RATHER CHARACTERIZE
MY OWN. I WOULD SAY THAT FROM MY STANDPOINT I HAD
AN AGREEABLE CONVERSATION WITH HIM. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT,
HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MAN WHOM I ENJOYED MEETING AND HAVING
A FIRST BRIEF EXCHANGE WITH.

Q: I HAVE ONE QUESTION PLEASE, MAYBE IT IS THE LAST

QUESTION. BECAUSE I HAVE TO COVER GREECE AND TURKEY, AND
WHEN WILL YOU BE THERE, IN ATHENS AND IN ANKARA AND CYPRUS?

A: I AM NOT SURE THAT I UNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION. I WILL
BE PASSING THROUGH ISTANBUL ON MY WAY TO NEW DELHI, BUT IT
IS REALLY JUST A STOP OCCASIONED BY THE LIMITATIONS OF
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INTERNATIONAL AIRPLANE SCHEDULES. YOU MAY WANT TO PURSUE
THAT QUESTION. I MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU SAID.

Q: BECAUSE YOU PROMISED LAST TIME YOU WERE IN ATHENS THAT
YOU WOULD COME BACK AFTER THE SITUATION IS SETTLED IN
TURKEY AND GREECE. TWO OR THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN YOU WERE
THERE, AND NOW I THINK THERE HAS BEEN A BREAK IN ANKARA
AND IN ATHENS.

A: I THINK THAT THERE MUST BE A CASE OF MISTAKEN
IDENTITY, I HAVE NOT BEEN IN ATHENS AND I THINK ALL I
CAN SAY IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION IS THAT THAT IS
AN AREA OF THE WORLD IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO
HAVE A VERY GREAT CONCERN AND HOPES TO HELP THE PARTIES WORK
FOR AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL PREVENT ANY FUTURE DIFFICULTIES
IN THAT AREA. WE NOTED OF COURSE IN THE PAPER THIS MORNING
THAT DEMIREL HAS PUT TOGETHER A NEW GOVERNMENT, AND WHEN THAT
GOVERNMENT RECEIVES ITS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, I HOPE THAT WE CAN
SEE A RENEWAL OF THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND
CYPRUS WHICH WILL REDUCE THE TENSIONS IN THAT AREA. BUT I THINK
YOU MUST HAVE A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY, BECAUSE I DO NOT
BELIEVE I WAS IN ATHENS OR THAT I SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE
FUTURE THERE. (LAUGHTER.).

Q: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A. THANK YOU. UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

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